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OCS - PERSONNEL (Professional qualifications for recruiting)

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[redacted] Chief, Technical Staff, OCS 3 May 1966
Letter to Thomas McFee, Exec. Secretary, refuted statement
made at a meeting of the KNOX PANEL to the effect that high
school graduates were adequate to implement programs on
sophisticated computers. [redacted] said

...In general, I have found that the system programmer trainees
who have the best probability of moving rapidly into a full role
on a complex system are those who have had a balanced selection
~~of~~ of computer science courses from a good university.
Others eventually may be as good, but the college-graduate
trainee can move into a full role within one to six months,
whereas the training of a high-school graduate requires a
formidable and time-consuming management effort.

Computer-science trained programmers are versatile and can
be given varied and fairly large independent assignments with
little supervision. Most have ~~developed excellent~~ ~~at least~~
~~developed~~ a minimum mathematics and physics background and
thus can aid in scientific computational problems such as
developing basic subroutines and interfaces.

The OCS has striven for professionalism and expects each
person to be flexible enough to fill the requirements of the
moment. Even though this ideal has not been fully reached
so far, applicants with a university computer science background
are receiving preference. For example, the two persons currently
in pre-employment process for the OCS Technical Staff are Ph.D.
candidates in Computing Science at major universities. Physics,
mathematics, science, and engineering majors are next in
preference.